

# Adult Summer Reading List

## SOUTH PASADENA PUBLIC LIBRARY VIRTUAL 2020 SUMMER READING PROGRAM



# DIG DEEPER!

## READ, INVESTIGATE, DISCOVER



### ★ The Night Watchman

by Louise Erdrich

*Based on the life of Louise Erdrich's grandfather, "The Night Watchman" explores Native American dispossession in rural North Dakota. Explore themes of love, death, human nature, and Native culture with "The Night Watchman".*

### ★ Little Gods

by Meng Jin

*"Little Gods" revolves around the relationship between a Chinese mother and daughter. Meng Jin's debut novel "Little Gods" covers a vast array of topics, including memory, time, physics, history, and the immigrant experience.*

### ★ H is for Hawk

by Helen Macdonald

*After the death of her father, Helen Macdonald began her journey to becoming a falconer. She explores the arduous process of training a goshawk and, simultaneously, addressing her own grief.*

### ★ The Zookeeper's Wife

by Diane Ackerman

*The story of Jan and Antonina Zabinski, two Polish zookeepers who smuggled and protected Jews during the WW2 Nazi occupation of Warsaw. Both an exploration of the natural world and a detailed look at the lives of civilians during WW2.*

### ★ Bonobo Handshake: A Memoir of Love and Adventure in the Congo

by Vanessa Woods

*A young woman follows her fiancé to the Democratic Republic of Congo, a country ravaged by war, to study the endangered bonobo ape.*

### ★ The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon

by David Grann

*In 1925, British explorer Percy Fawcett entered the Amazon with the hope of discovering the fabled kingdom of El Dorado. After years of obsessively collecting data and records, Fawcett was determined to prove that El Dorado did exist. And, yet, his expedition went missing. Scientists have spent decades trying to uncover the mystery of Fawcett's missing expedition.*

### ★ The Martian Chronicles

by Ray Bradbury

*A sci-fi classic, "The Martian Chronicles" tells the fictional story of man's repeated attempts to colonize the Red planet.*

Explore more titles with our digital collection: [www.southpasadenaca.gov/overdrive](http://www.southpasadenaca.gov/overdrive)

# Adult Summer Reading List

## ✧ The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

by Douglas Adams

*Moments before Earth is demolished, Arthur Dent is rescued and taken aboard a spaceship, where his journey through the galaxy begins. Dent is introduced to a quirky cast of fellow galaxy travelers and, ultimately, sets out to seek the answer to the ultimate question: the "Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything".*

## ✧ Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail

by Cheryl Strayed

*After experiencing significant personal loss, author Cheryl Strayed made the impulsive decision to hike the Pacific Crest Trail from Mojave Desert through California and Oregon to Washington State - with no prior training or experience.*

## ✧ On Trails: An Exploration

by Robert Moor

*Author Robert Moor has spent years researching hiking trails; the tricks of master trail-builders, the origin of road networks, long-lost Cherokee trails, and how our system of trails is connected to the Internet. Moor interweaves his findings with science, history, philosophy, and nature writing.*

## ✧ The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

by Rebecca Skloot

*The cells of Henrietta Lacks, known to scientists as HeLa, have been one of the most important tools in modern medicine. Without her knowledge, Lacks' cells were taken and used in the first "immortal" human cell culture. Though Lacks has been deceased for more than 60 years, her cells still alive today.*

## ✧ The Beekeeper of Aleppo

by Christy Lefteri

*"The Beekeeper of Aleppo" is the story of a beekeeper, Nuri, and his artist wife, Afra. Nuri and Afra must travel through Turkey and Greece to escape their lives in Aleppo, a city ravaged by war.*

## ✧ Maybe You Should Talk to Someone: A Therapist, Her Therapist, and Our Lives Revealed

by Lori Gottlieb

*A memoir in which author and therapist, Lori Gottlieb, explores five patients and their differing viewpoints on life.*

## ✧ A Gentleman in Moscow

by Amor Towles

*"A Gentleman in Moscow" is the 30-year saga of the Count Alexander Ilyich Rostov, who is placed under house arrest inside the Metropol Hotel in Moscow*

## ✧ Educated

by Tara Westover

*A memoir detailing author, Tara Westover, overcoming her upbringing and going to college.*

## ✧ Between the World and Me

by Ta-Nehisi Coates

*"Between the World and Me" is written as a letter to the author's teenage son about the feelings, symbolism, and realities associated with being Black in the United States.*

**Explore more titles with our digital collection: [www.southpasadenaca.gov/overdrive](http://www.southpasadenaca.gov/overdrive)**

# Adult Summer Reading List

## ★ There There

by Tommy Orange

*Tommy Orange's wondrous and shattering novel follows twelve characters from Native communities: all traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow, all connected to one another in ways they may not yet realize.*

## ★ Zeitoun

by Dave Eggers

*The true story of one family, caught between America's two biggest policy disasters: the war on terror and the response to Hurricane Katrina.*

## ★ As Close to Us as Breathing

by Elizabeth Poliner

*A multigenerational family saga about the long-lasting reverberations of one tragic summer.*

## ★ The Weight of Ink

by Rachel Kadish

*A sophisticated work of historical fiction about women separated by centuries, and the choices and sacrifices they must make in order to reconcile the life of the heart and mind.*

## ★ Apeirogon

by Colum McCann

*Bassam Aramin is Palestinian. Rami Elhanan is Israeli. They inhabit a world of conflict that colors every aspect of their lives, from the roads they are allowed to drive on to the schools their children attend to the checkpoints, both physical and emotional, they must negotiate. After two tragic deaths, Bassam and Rami attempt to use their grief as a weapon for peace.*

## ★ American Creation: Triumphs and Tragedies at the Founding of the Republic

by Joseph J. Ellis

*Ellis' nonfiction book examines the successes and failures of the Founding Fathers.*

1100 Oxley Street | South Pasadena, CA | 91030  
[www.southpasadenaca.gov/SRPinfo](http://www.southpasadenaca.gov/SRPinfo)



Explore more titles with our digital collection: [www.southpasadenaca.gov/overdrive](http://www.southpasadenaca.gov/overdrive)